

doing all that we can to reduce the number of children who have adverse reactions. We must work aggressively to understand why some children suffer adverse reactions so that we may develop precautionary measures to reduce adverse reactions. I will continue to pursue this effort with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I was pleased when a Democrat controlled Congress and Republican President Reagan worked together in bipartisan fashion in 1986 to establish the VICP. VICP was established to ensure that our nation continues to have a strong vaccination program while compensating those families when a child suffers a serious adverse reaction to a vaccine. Back in the mid-1980s there was a real concern that due to lawsuits brought against vaccine manufacturers, some manufacturers would stop making their vaccines available leaving the American public without important vaccines.

The Vaccine Injured Children's Compensation Act of 2001 (VICCA) would make a number of substantive and administrative changes to the VICP, in an attempt to restore the program so that it fulfills the promises that were intended. A broad coalition of Members of Congress from across the political spectrum has joined together to address these concerns.

The bill clarifies that this program is to be a remedial, compensation program, which is consistent with the original intent expressed by Congress in the House Report accompanying the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. Today, the program is too litigious and adversarial. VICCA makes changes regarding burden of proof. Currently, the burden of proof is such that some children may not be receiving compensation that is due them. I believe we should bend over backwards to ensure that every child who was injured receives compensation. The intent of the program was to provide compensation for all claimants whose injuries may very well have been caused by the vaccine. The program needs to fully recognize that strict scientific proof is not always available. Serious side effects of vaccines are rare and as such, it is often difficult to prove causal relationships with the certainty that science and medicine often expect. Indeed there may be multiple factors that lead to an adverse reaction in some children and the program should recognize this. VICCA ensures that this is taken into account and it ensures that when the weight of the evidence is balanced, we err on the side of the injured child.

Our bill will also make it easier to ensure that the costs associated with setting up a trust for the compensation award are a permitted use of the funds. This is important in ensuring that these funds are available to provide a lifetime of care for the injured child. The bill also stops the practice of discounting to ensure that the value of an award for pain and suffering is fully met.

We also recognize the important need for counseling in helping parents and siblings of a profoundly injured child cope with these new challenges. The impact of these injuries go well beyond the child who is injured. This bill will ensure coverage of counseling services.

The bill also ensures the payment of interim fees and costs to claimants attorneys. Under

the current program, families and attorneys are often forced to bear these expenses for years while a claim is heard. Attorneys for the claimants are going to be paid for their fees and costs at the end of a claim, regardless of whether or not they prevail. Thus there is no logical reason why they should not be allowed to petition for interim fees and costs. This provision simply ensures a more fair process for the claimants, by ensuring that the injured child can have good representation while pursuing his or her claim. It ensures that they are able to put their best case forward. The current practice hinders the ability of many claimants to put their best case forward. This should not be the case in a program that was established to ensure provisions for children who have been injured.

Finally, the bill makes a number of changes to statutes of limitation. The program should serve the purpose of compensating those who were harmed. Thus, it is important to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible to ensure that injured children are compensated and fully cared for.

THE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce, along with my good friend and colleague, TONY HALL, the Community Solutions Act of 2001, legislation that will strengthen our ability to serve the poor and the homeless, the addicted and the hungry, the unemployed, victims of violence, and all those that we are called on to reach out to, both as public servants and as individual citizens.

The Community Solutions Act is a comprehensive approach that will enhance the power of communities and individuals to solve the difficult problems that grow from poverty and destitution in our wealthy nation.

Our Nation is blessed with tens of thousands of devoted people who work with the poor on a daily basis, in the neighborhoods, on the street corners, in the shelters and the soup kitchens, shirtsleeves rolled up, literally extending a helping hand to those who have lost hope. These are the people who touch the poor.

They operate thousands of centers throughout the country that provide services to the underprivileged. In many neighborhoods these centers are centers of hope and often the only source of hope in an otherwise desolate landscape.

Through our legislation we invite these courageous and selfless men and women to help us as a society to find those in need and deliver to them needed services. Those services include hunger relief, drug counseling, protection from violence, housing and other assistance to help them become fully invested in their rights as Americans.

For too long we have excluded these individuals from helping us help others. In the effort to wipe out poverty and hopelessness, we need all the soldiers we can muster.

In addition to increasing our outreach to the poor by increasing the number of hands that are reaching out, the Community Solutions Act provides a number of tax incentives to encourage Americans in their generous giving to these causes.

A charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize seems not only good public policy but also a matter of simple fairness for more moderate income Americans who use the standard deduction but contribute to charities and receive no tax relief for doing so. This initiative will give them equal standing with wealthier contributors. We also allow tax free contributions to charity from IRAs, and we expand the charitable deduction for food products.

Finally, we provide the opportunity for personal empowerment for the poor through the establishment of Individual Development Accounts or DIAs. One of the great challenges in the escape from poverty is how to build assets and capital to start a business, to buy a home or to pay tuition, and how to manage money.

The IDAs we set up will provide to eligible individuals a government match of up to \$500 a year tax-free and will serve as a repository for other tax-free private giving. Recipients will be trained in the skills of money management and will learn how to invest for the future for themselves and for their families.

Last year we passed the Community Renewal and New Markets Initiative to reach out to impoverished communities in this land of plenty. The Community Solutions Act goes one more step, reaches out a little farther, to get government services to every one who needs them. With the help of these thousands of dedicated individuals, we can accomplish that goal.

**HONORING REVEREND DR.
THURMOND COLEMAN, SR.**

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize someone who has devoted his time and energy to his church and beliefs. Rev. Dr. Thurmond Coleman, Sr., pastored the First Baptist Church in Jeffersontown, Kentucky for 45 years. Upon his retirement he was named Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Coleman has served as the Moderator of the Central District Association for the past six years, and his tenure will end in July 2001. He is a community leader serving on the Louisville Urban League, NAACP, and Kentucky Human Rights Commission. Dr. Coleman is also a civil rights leader bringing about reconciliation between black and white Baptists and among all races and religions.

On Saturday, March 31, 2001, Dr. Coleman will be honored for his hard work and dedication as Moderator of the Central District Baptist Association, which has a membership of 147 churches.

Individuals such as Dr. Coleman play a vital role in reconciling the divisions in our community and in building the hope of a better future for each person. I am proud to bring your attention to Rev. Dr. Thurmond Coleman, and all of his achievements.

HARRIET TUBMAN, FREEDOM
FIGHTER, UNION SPY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harriet Tubman and her hard work and dedication to social justice. Harriet Tubman is credited with freeing many African-Americans from slavery. She is remembered for her work with the Underground Railroad, her life and commitment to helping others gain their freedom.

Mrs. Tubman was born a slave, in Bucktown, Maryland. The date of her birth is unsure, but it is believed to be March 10, 1820. She was born Araminta, but decided later to take on her mother's first name instead. Starting life on a plantation, she grew up doing hard labor in the fields and suffered repeated beatings. At the age of 13, she was struck in the head by an overseer with a heavy weight that fractured her skull and subjected her to continuous blackouts.

After her owner died in 1849, Mrs. Tubman was able to escape to Philadelphia on the Underground Railroad. In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Law was passed. The law criminalized providing assistance to runaway slaves. This new law did not stop Mrs. Tubman, however, from repeatedly making trips back into the southern states where she eventually freed about 3,000 slaves, including her elderly parents using the Underground Railroad. Since she freed so many people from slavery, Harriet Tubman became known as the "Moses of her people".

Despite these achievements, Harriet Tubman's role as a member of the Union Army's forces, during the Civil War, is not widely recognized. She later reported to General David Hunter at Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1863 where she worked as a nurse, scout, spy and cook for the Union Army. During the War, Harriet led a bold raid in South Carolina that freed over 800 slaves.

In 1884, after the Civil War, Harriet Tubman married John Tubman a freed slave. Four years later, her husband died leaving her to live the latter portion of her life in poverty. Nevertheless, Mrs. Tubman campaigned to raise funds for black schools. She also created the Harriet Tubman Home for Indignant Aged Negroes in her own home.

As we end our celebration of Women's History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Harriet Tubman for her hard work, extraordinarily contributions toward social justice and her service with the Union forces by supporting my legislation to posthumously award her veteran status.

"FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ACT OF
2001"

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Fallen Firefighters Act of 2001." This legislation serves as a remembrance to the heroic men and women who have died in

the line of duty by requiring the American flag on all federal buildings be lowered to half-staff one day each year on the observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

Nearly 1.2 million men and women serve our country as fire and emergency services personnel. Approximately one-third suffer debilitating injuries each year making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Furthermore approximately 100 men and women die in the line of duty every year—many are volunteers. Since 1981 every state in America, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have lost firefighters serving in the line of duty.

In 1990, Congress designated the national monument in Emmitsburg, Maryland to serve as the official memorial to all fallen firefighters. Since 1981, the names of 2,077 fallen fire heroes have been added to the Roll of Honor. This year, the name of Arnold Blakenship, Jr., of Greenwood Delaware, will be placed on the 2000 memorial plaque along with 85 other firefighters. Sadly Mr. Blakenship is not the first firefighter in Delaware to be memorialized.

Lowering the flag on federal buildings one day a year will remind all Americans of the patriotic service and dedicated efforts of our fire and emergency services personnel. These men and women work tirelessly to protect and preserve the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Through this legislation, we can show our support and respect for America's fire heroes and those who carry on the noble tradition of service.

We must always remember the contributions of all of our public safety officers. In 1962, Congress passed a Joint Resolution honoring America's peace officers who died in the line of duty in recognition of their dedicated service to their communities. Today, we take the first step in bestowing the same respect on the 1.2 million fire and emergency services personnel who also serve as public safety officers. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and recognize these heroic men and women.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARD ROCK CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Hard Rock Café International. June 14th will mark the 30th anniversary of the Hard Rock Café's service to numerous communities throughout the United States. Chartered in 1971, the popular theme restaurant has remained a stronghold in the community throughout the cultural and economic changes that have occurred since it opened its doors.

For the past 30 years, Hard Rock Café has embodied the spirit of rock music; and as the originator of theme-restaurant dining, it continues to be a rock connection for music enthusiasts worldwide. Hard Rock Café is one of the most globally recognized brands known for rock music memorabilia as showcased throughout its many ventures. Hard Rock Café has provided a venue for new and legendary performers through their live café performances and concerts.

Another top priority for Hard Rock Café is a dedication to a wide variety of philanthropic causes around the world. Their pioneering mission to give something back to the community has not only served as a catalyst to raise funds, but it has enhanced the very profile of corporate charity work and served as an example of the good that can be done when local businesses become community partners. Hard Rock Café has also used their visibility to increase awareness of world issues including AIDS, homelessness, environmental conservation, and the care and nurturing of children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Hard Rock Café International. As a musician and music enthusiast, I thank them for their outstanding support of the musical art form and the many artists across the world. As a father and a public official, I commend their service to communities throughout the United States and the world.

COAST GUARDSMEN FROM
STATION NIAGARA

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and profound regret that I rise today. I rise to address the House about two heroes who died on Saturday morning.

While patrolling the waters of Lake Ontario on Friday night, four Coast Guardsmen from Station Niagara were hit by a wave that capsized their boat. All the men were thrown into the frigid water of the Great Lakes where, even in their survival suits, they could not last longer than a few hours. Their fellow Coast Guardsmen, joined by members of the Lewiston Fire Department, Erie County Sheriff's office, and Canadian Coast Guard, searched for these men during the night and all four were eventually recovered. However, despite hours of intensive medical care, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Scott Chism of Lakeside, California and Seaman Chris Ferreby of Morristown New Jersey, both passed away on Saturday morning. The remaining two crewmen are recovering from their ordeal.

Petty Officer Chism is survived by his wife Attalissa, his five-year old daughter Kelsey and his one-year old son Caleb. Seaman Ferreby is survived by his wife Amy and their seven-month-old son Tyler.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I want to extend our sympathies to these men's families, their "shipmates" at Station Niagara who sought them so valiantly through the dark night and to the entire Coast Guard community who shares our grief at their loss. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them at this difficult time.

This tragedy underscores the hazardous nature of even routine operations of the Coast Guard and should serve as a stark reminder to all of us here in Congress that the watch our brave Coast Guard men and women stand each day in service to our nation is a dangerous one.

Mr. Speaker, two heroes died Saturday morning but their lives exemplified the Coast